

#8

“Two of my classmates were arguing and started to fight. I felt I had to do something, so I tried to stop them, but they kept fighting.

Then I got in between the two of them, but I got punched in the mouth and started to bleed. When they saw that I was hurt, they stopped hitting each other and were concerned about me. They asked how I was and walked with me to the nurse. **When the teacher in charge asked me what had happened, I chose not to tell on them. Even though I had a split lip, I felt a lot of joy because I was able to bring peace between my classmates.**

(José - Chile)



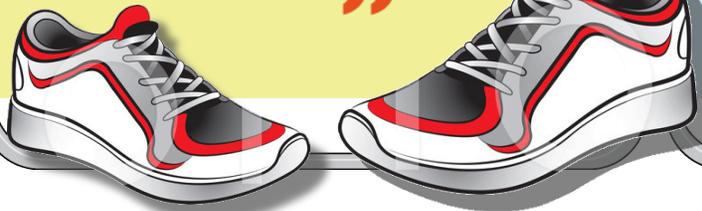
“One of my friends asked to borrow my gym shoes and I lent them to him. Some time after that, I needed some help on a lesson, so I asked to borrow his notes, but he refused to share them with me.

That same day, he asked me a favor and, remembering with pain that he hadn't helped me even after my act of love, I was tempted not to help him. **It was hard to forgive him. However, I remembered that to love means to have no expectations of being loved in return, so I immediately offered to do what he asked.**

(L.M.O.)



AN UNCONDITIONAL LOVE ...



#8

«If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?» (Lk 6:32)

Jesus makes an interesting point by asking this!

He tells us who follow him to imitate God the Father in how we love. **If we want to be his children, we should love our neighbor in the same way that he loves all of us.**

How does God love? What can we do to be like him?

The first characteristic of God's love is that it is **freely given**.

FREE? That's the opposite of how people usually love! They normally want something back when they love, or only love those whom they like or are attracted to.

Our heavenly Father loves us not because we are already good, and therefore deserving of his attention and care. He loves us even when we are not good, but his love creates goodness in us! He makes us his friends and his children.

I get it! So I have to try to love without expecting anything in return, right?

Yes, but then there's another characteristic of the Father's love: **universality**, which means that he loves everyone, no matter who they are.

So, do I have to love everyone?

Yes, is that hard for you?

Yes, it's hard to love some people! Do I really have to love them even if I don't like them?

You don't love like God does unless you are really generous and creative in the way you treat others, especially filling the "emptiness" of those in need.

That's true, because God the Father loves even people who are ungrateful, or rebellious, or don't seem to be following his way. In fact, he looks for them and loves them in a special way.

From a commentary by Chiara Lubich - Adapted by the Gen 3 Center

MemoryCard

THIS MONTH, I'LL TRY :

TO BE THE FIRST TO LOVE, WITH A LOVE THAT IS **GENEROUS, SUPPORTIVE, OPEN TO EVERYONE AND ESPECIALLY REACHING OUT TO THOSE WHO ARE THE HARDEST TO LOVE.**



TO LOVE WITHOUT EXPECTING RESULTS OR SOMETHING IN RETURN.

In Action...

WITH MY ACTS I WANT TO



FILL WITH LOVE



EVERY «EMPTINESS»



THAT I SEE IN THE «SNAPSHOTS» OF MY DAY.

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CUT AND FOLD IN HALF, YOU CAN USE THE INSIDE OF THIS CARD TO WRITE YOUR COMMENTS AND THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS WORD OF LIFE. CUT OUT THIS PART, WHEN YOU FOLD IT, IT BECOMES A USEFUL CARD TO TAKE AROUND WITH YOU.